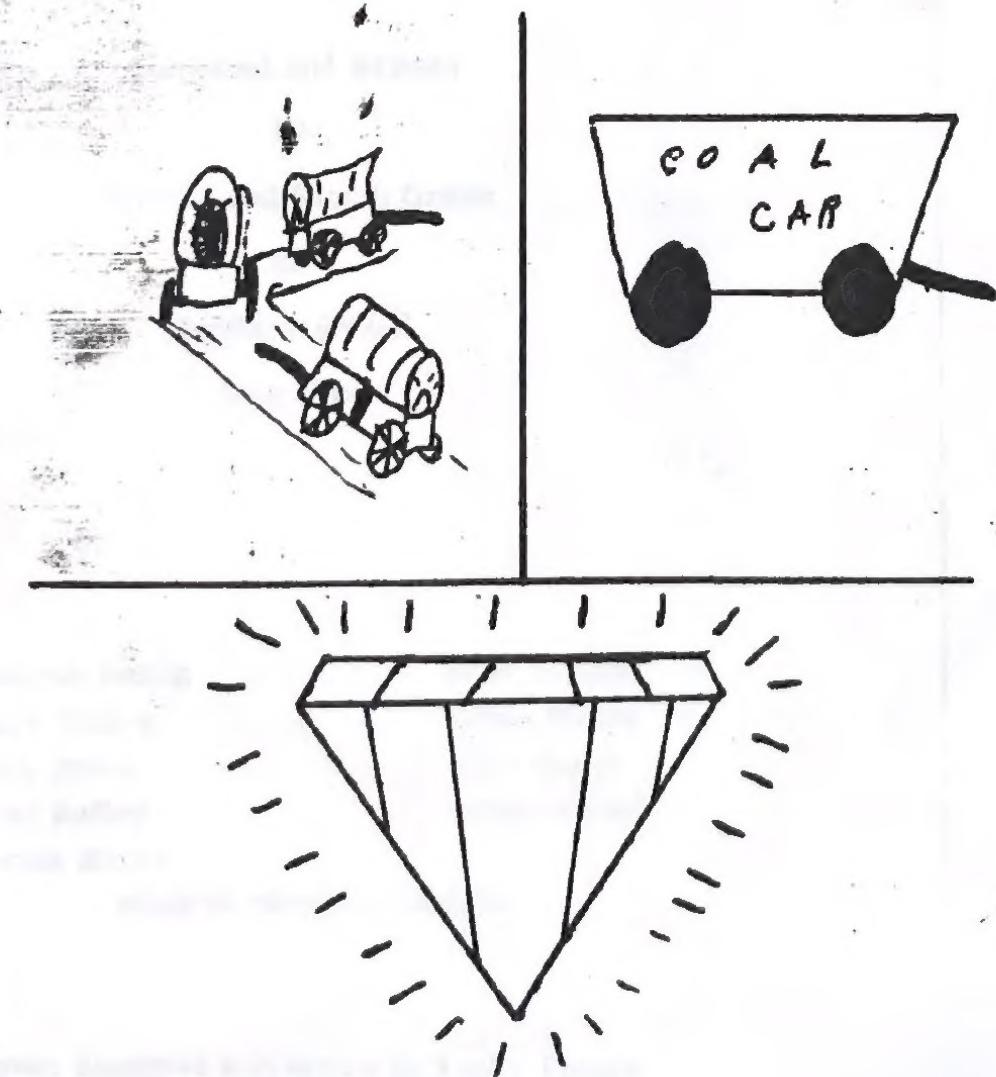


THE HISTORY OF SUNFIELD DIAMOND TOWN.



The HISTORY Of SUNFIELD (DIAMOND TOWN)

**Compiled and written
by
Seventh and Eighth Grade
of
Sunfield School
May 1966**

**Deborah Vancil
Paula Bishop
Mark Jones
Janet Bailey
Martha Brock**

**Jane Wright
Louis Mines
John Heape
Ricky Foutch**

Mildred Hirsch - Teacher

**Cover designed and drawn by Ricky Foutch
with assistance in idea by Martha Brock.**

PREFACE

This booklet is concerned with the development and history of Sunfield, at one time called Diamond Town and later Diamond City.

We have attempted to trace, as accurately as possible, the movement of the earliest settlers to this community and to trace their descendants to the present generation. The reader is asked to keep in mind that we have not continued to trace the family after they left Sunfield. We have not intentionally omitted names nor stated any inaccuracies. If we have done so, we are sorry.

We have also attempted to trace the development of the few industries, businesses, and services which contributed to the growth of the community and town.

We are deeply grateful to the following people for the valuable information given to us for this booklet: John T. Bishop, Jack and Addie Bishop, Tommy and Violet O'Keefe, Jack and Fannie Hoge, Lawrence and Esther Brock, Arthur Bailey, Harley Quillman, Peggy Saunders, Fleta Morris, Henry Jackson, Betty Dry, Ethel Bailey, Shirley (Eaton) Shaffer, Elizabeth Spurgeon, Jean Ibendahl, and others who served as resource people or helped in any way.

Sincerely,

Seventh and Eighth Grades
Sunfield School

I would like to personally acknowledge the persevering and determined effort which these students attached to the gathering and writing of this material. At times it seemed the task was insurmountable, but they patiently labored on and were never satisfied until it was completed.

I'm very proud of these kids.

Mildred Hirsch, Teacher

NAMING OF THE COMMUNITY

The naming of our community has been based on basic principals and reasons.

Jimmy Dick, the man who had the land surveyed and platted, first named it Diamond Town after his mine, the Black Diamond Mine. Later records show it was listed as Diamond City.

Around 1884, the post office was built near the Sun Coal and Coke Company, which was located near the site of the present Tennison Service Station. Prominent figures in that community held a meeting to decide on a name for the post office. They were having a hard time, until someone chanced to turn around and see a wheat field waving in a breeze under the setting sun. This sight gave the men an idea and the name Sunnyfield was brought up. But one man present brought forth a map of Illinois where they noticed the name Sunnyfield was already listed. They then shortened it to Sunfield.

As the people of Sunfield moved to Diamond Town, because of better facilities, they brought the name Sunfield with them. The people of our community preferred Sunfield over Diamond City, so the name, Sunfield, was accepted. The town, Sunfield, was incorporated in 1904 and became unincorporated the following year. It has remained Sunfield ever since.

EARLY SETTLERS

JAMES DICK

James Dick was born in Hamilton, Scotland. He came to America and took a position as mechanic for a man who owned a large mill in North Carolina. Dick made four trips back to Scotland to buy machinery and parts for his employer's mill. His employer came to trust him, and they became close friends.

Later Dick came to Perry County, and in 1859, he bought some land. In 1862, on January 23, he bought more land, part of which later became a part of Diamond Town. Here he built a log cabin and a large barn, then proceeded to return to Scotland to marry his childhood sweetheart.

Hearing of his planned trip, John Buchanan, Bill Jackson, and others gave him pictures and gifts to give to their relatives in Scotland. Unfortunately however, he was shipwrecked on the way over, and although he was rescued, he lost all of his luggage and the treasures entrusted to him by his friends.

He finally reached Scotland, married his childhood sweetheart, Catherine, then returned with her to Diamond Town to live. One son was born to them whom they named Robert. Catherine died about a month later so a neighbor moved in to care for the baby.

About ten years later Dick left for New York on a business trip. One post card was received by his son, Robert, telling him he had arrived safely in New York. No one heard from him again. His lawyer suspect-

ed he had been murdered by men plotting to gyp him out of an inheritance of land in New York.

After the elder Dick's disappearance, J. Buchanan was appointed as Robert's guardian because he was left with quite a lot of property.

Third Generation

Children of Robert Dick and Clara Williams

1. Robert Jr. married
2. Fred married
3. Fannie married Earl Eaton

Fourth Generation

Children of Fannie Dick and Earl Eaton

1. Katherine married Louis Gremmels (Living in Du Quoin)
2. Jack (unmarried) resides in Texas
3. Shirley married Ken Shaffet (Living in New Jersey)
4. Robert married Donna Bishop

Fifth Generation

Children of Robert Eaton and Donna Bishop

1. Sabrina (age 8)
2. Tammy (age 6)
3. Jacque (age 4)

THE MORGAN FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Morgan were married in Kentucky in 1820. They moved north to Union County and lived there for seven years. Then they moved to Perry County and claimed forty acres of land near the present residence of Mr. Loren Heape, where they built their log cabin. When their daughter, Elizabeth, was only a few years old, they sold out to Benson and bought the hill south of the present Mr. George Jackson's residence. They had to go to Sparta to get their supplies because there was no other town around.

THE JACKSON FAMILY

William Jackson was born in England in 1831. When he was 22, he moved to Wisconsin and lived there for one year. From there he moved to New Orleans. It was here that Jackson decided, after having accumulated one-hundred dollars of hard-earned cash, that he would join the Gold Rushers in the West, but unfortunately, someone else was also looking for that one-hundred dollars. He was robbed and left penniless. Shortly thereafter he became seriously ill with typhoid fever. After he recovered, he took a construction job on the Illinois Central Railroad. By the time he reached the site of Diamond Town, he was an Illinois Central foreman. He boarded at the Morgan home. After his marriage to Elizabeth Morgan, Jackson got a chance to help dig a well at a dollar a foot. He was good at that and went into the business. He started a

limestone quarry near the late Jack Kimmel home and used the bricks in his well-digging business. On some of his land Jackson found a fine clay, so a brick yard was the next rung on Jackson's success ladder. When the elder Morgans died, William and Elizabeth Jackson inherited all of the Morgan's property.

Jackson had a brother, John, who we know came to this community also. We do not know if they came from England together or at different times.

Second Generation

Children of Elizabeth Morgan and William Jackson

1. Minnie married Arthur Hoge
2. Sarah married Henry Kimmel
3. William A. married Anna Pyatt

Children John (Jack) Jackson and Visca

1. Frank married Nan Johnson
2. Fred married Martha Davis
3. Louis married Mary Heape

Third Generation

Children of Minnie Jackson and Arthur Hoge

1. Jackson D. (unmarried)
2. Fannie (unmarried)

Children of Sarah Jackson and Henry Kimmel

1. Jack

Children of William A. Jackson and Anna Pyatt

1. Mary (unmarried)
2. Pyatt married Hazel McKinney.
3. Annabelle married Townsend Blanchard

Children of Frank Jackson and Nan Johnson

1. Beri married Ollie Heape
2. Bill married Lola Commeans
3. Otto
4. Lols married Herbert Hagston
5. Dollie married Wayne House

Children of Fred Jackson and Martha Davis

1. Henry married Mary Viva King.

Children of Louis Jackson and Mary Heape

1. Alva married Gertrude Campbell
2. George married Bernis Scronce
3. Edna married Otto Zoeckler
4. Leonard

Fourth Generation

Children of Pyatt Jackson and Hazel McKinney

1. Mary Dean

Children of Henry Jackson and Mary Viva King

1. Eileen married Kenneth Jackson
2. Betty married Maurice Glen O'Keefe
3. Patty (age 18)

Children of George Jackson and Bernis Scronce

1. Iva Mae married Gerald Milligan
2. Allen married Roberta Stein
3. Jean
4. Steve (Jean and Steve are twins)

Children of Alva Jackson and Gertrude Campbell

1. Loren (Living in Indiana)
2. Irma married Rudy Micheal
3. Kenneth married Eileen Jackson
4. Louis (Living in Indiana)
5. Paul

Fifth Generation

Children of Kenneth Jackson and Eileen Jackson

1. Kathy (age 11)
2. Dennis (age 9)

Children of Betty Jackson and Maurice Glen O'Keefe

(Refer to O'Keefe Family)

THE HOGE FAMILY

David M. Hoge, a school teacher, first came from West Virginia. He was the paternal great-grandfather of Jack and Fannie Hoge. He settled south of the Paradise Baptist Church. He was Perry County Sheriff in 1846-1852-1856. His son, David A. Hoge, was a Civil War Veteran and a school teacher and was sheriff in 1858.

Arthur Hoge, the son of David A. Hoge, was also a school teacher and a farmer. He taught a few years in the Sunfield School.

In 1888 Arthur Hoge married Minnie Jackson. They are the parents of Jack and Fannie Hoge, who are still residing at the old homestead.

THE QUILLMAN FAMILY

The ancestors of Harley Quillman were some of the earliest settlers of our community.

Peter Quillman, the eldest Quillman of whom we have a record was born in Germany in the year 1769. When he moved to America with his wife he first settled in Philadelphia. There three sons were born, Jacob, Elias, and Aaron. Some years later, the Quillman family migrated to North Carolina. The boys moved to Illinois when they were older. Jacob, the eldest of the three, was the only one to settle near Sunfield. He married Elizabeth Blackwelder, and they had a son whom they named James Alexander.

4.

When James Alexander married he lived on the corner of Highway 51 and the Lane Road. This land stayed in the Quillman family for many years. Later his son, John Jacob, built the white house which is still standing one quarter mile farther north on Highway 51.

Third Generation

Child of Jacob Quillman and Elizabeth Blackwelder

1. James Alexander married

Fourth Generation

Child of James A. Quillman and

1. John Jacob married Mary Francis Saunders

Fifth Generation

Children of John Jacob Quillman and Mary F. Saunders

1. Albert married Lettie
2. John
3. Harley married Alta Thimmig

Sixth Generation

Child of Harley Quillman and Alta Thimmig

1. Robert (married and living in Chicago)

The Harley Quillmans now reside in Pinckneyville. Harley was a former teacher in the Sunfield School. He is presently principal of the Pinckneyville Community High School, a position he has held for the last several years.

MACLIN'S and REVELLE'S

Isaac Maclin and Eliza Patience moved to this community from Lanefield, Tennessee, because they objected to slavery. The Southern troops had tried to force Mr. and Mrs. Maclin's three sons Bryce, Napolean, and Dorsey into joining their forces but their parents thought they were too young. So the Maclins packed all of their belongings that was possible to take, along with their team of horses and a wagon, and loaded on a flat boat and drifted to Cairo. Although there were no wagon wheels to change or horses to water there were many burdens and griefs to worry the family.

Then in a sturdy wagon drawn by horses they journeyed to Du Quoin. There they lived in a boarding house until they had scraped up enough money to buy 120 acres of land in Diamond Town. The eldest Maclin's sons did join the Northern forces when they arrived here.

Mr. M. A. Revelle came here from Tennessee as a single man. He boarded at the Maclin home, for they were a warm, hospitable family always willing to take in boarders. Soon he fell deeply in love with the Maclin's daughter, Susan Alice. After their marriage they lived for a while with Alice's parents. Then they bought land West of the Maclin home. The old log house which stood on the land was replaced by the frame house which is presently standing. Revelle first started working

as a clerk in a clothing store. He later worked in the #2 mine where he became a stockholder. He was also a brick mason.

Third Generation

Children of Susan Alice Maclin and M. A. Revelle

1. Betty married Frank Dry
2. Axum married Elsie Martel
3. Alice married Joe Richardson
4. Annie married Kirkpatrick
5. Eliza (unmarried)

Fourth Generation

Children of Axum Revelle and Elsie Martel

1. Eleanor
2. Howard
3. Elmer
4. Glenn
5. Verda
6. Eugene
7. Eunice

THE BISHOPS

The Andrew Jackson Bishop family and his brother and family came to this area from Carlinville, Illinois, in a covered wagon.

Andrew and his family at first lived in a log cabin about a mile southeast of present Sunfield. They later built a two-room house in Diamond Town on the southwest corner of Sherman and Oak Street. Here they raised their eleven children.

Outside the house they built a large clay oven in which Mrs. Bishop and Mrs. Lindsay, a neighbor, did their weekly baking. Sometimes other neighbors also used the Bishop's oven. In order to heat the oven, Mrs. Bishop built a fire in it. When she thought the oven was hot enough, she raked the fire out and then tested it by holding her hand inside the oven. If the oven was not hot enough, the fire was put back in and the temperature was retested. A week's supply of bread could be baked in this oven at one time.

John Thomas Bishop, the oldest living resident of Sunfield, is the only member of Andrews family living here now. Other members of the Andrew Jackson Bishop family were: Randolph, Charlie, George, Bill, Sue, James, Minerva, Lynn, Clara and Molly. Clara and George are still living and reside in Du Quoin.

Second Generation

Children of Andrew Jackson Bishop and Mary Lucinda Rhudas

1. John Thomas married Emily White
2. Randolph married Margaret O'Keefe
3. Charlie married Lulu Cross
4. George first married Dora Saunders and later Maggie Lemons
5. Bill married Lou Eaton
6. Sue married Charlie Woodside

7. James married Alta Brock
8. Minerva married Thomas O'Keefe II
9. Lynn married Beevus Terry
10. Clara married Charles Wolf
11. Molly married Bob Wheatley

Third Generation

Children of John Thomas Bishop and Emily White:

1. Paul (Puge) married Violet Huggins
2. Hal married Inez Hackelman
3. Flossie married Paul Morris and later Herbert Hamilton
4. Mildred married Herschel Dean Bailey
5. Howard married Catherine Avosky and later Laura Isaac
6. George died at age of nine from spinal meningitis

Children of Randolph Bishop and Margaret O'Keefe:

1. John (Jack) married Addie Lemons
2. Minnie married Charles Bailey
3. Randolph died in infancy
4. Joseph died in infancy

Children of George Bishop and Maggie Lemons:

1. Gladys married Harold Crane
2. Rachel married Curtis Eubanks, later to Martin Rebuffoni
3. Clara married Jack Malone
4. Cleo married Eugene Fox and later John Hess
5. James married Alberta Barrett

Children of Bill Bishop and Lou Eaton:

1. Bill married
2. Madge married Bill Roberts
3. Violet married Robert Ogilvie

Child of Molly Bishop and Bob Wheatley:

1. Lotty married George Hawkins

Fourth Generation

Children of Paul (Puge) Bishop and Violet Huggins:

1. Paula (age 13)
2. John (age 9)
3. Scott (age 2)

Children of Minnie Bishop and Charles Bailey:

(Refer to Bailey Family)

Child of Flossie Bishop and Paul Morris:

1. Forest, (Drowned at the age of 6).

Children of Hal Bishop and Inez Hackelman:

1. Halene married Mervin Hampleman
2. Donna married Robert Eaton
3. Fred married Janice Burton
4. Emily Sue married Jim Peterson

Child of Mildred Bishop and Herschel Dean Bailey:

1. Donald married Mauna Loa Runion.

Child of Howard Bishop and Catherine Avoosky:

1. Robert

Child of Howard Bishop and Laura Isaacs:

1. Walter (Buddy) age 16

Children of John (Jack) Bishop and Addie Lemons:

1. Archie married Hazel Bigges.
2. Esther married Eddie Rainwater
3. Bernice married LaVern Bailey
4. Minnie married Loren Heape
5. Jackie married Betty Huth
6. Margaret married Joe Davis

Fifth Generation

Children of Halene Bishop and Mervin Hampleman:

1. Kevin, age 10
2. Cindy, age 7

Children of Donna Bishop and Robert Eaton:
(Refer to James Dick)

Children of Archie Bishop and Hazel Bigges:

1. Charlie married Revenna Cook
2. Richard married Elsa Huite
3. Tommy married Connie Porter
4. JoAnn married Bruce Melvin

Children of Minnie Bishop and Loren Heape:

1. Robert (Bob) married Kay Miller
2. Lucille married Ronald Shirk
3. Phillip, age 17
4. John, age 13
5. Carroll, age 7

Children of Jackie Bishop and Betty Huth:

1. Doug, age 11
2. Donnie, age 10

Sixth Generation

Children of Richard Bishop and Elsa Huite:

1. Barbara Jean
2. Richard

Children of Robert Heape and Kay Miller:

1. Todd Robert, age 3
2. Susan Kay, age 20 months
3. Jill Ann, age 4 months



At the extreme right: John T. Bishop, the oldest living resident of Sunfield. Others from left to right (front row) Paula and John Bishop, grandchildren of Mr. Bishop. Back row: Flossie Hamilton (daughter), Herbert Hamilton (his son-in-law), and Mildred Bailey (daughter).



Randolph Bishop, Andrew Bishop's son, holding Chas. Wayne Bailey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ressho Bailey.

BAILEYS

The Baileys originated from Wales. There has been five to six generations since then.

The first Baileys to come from Wales were George and Mary Bailey. They came to America by boat and after landing, they bought a covered wagon and started westward. When they reached Youngstown, Ohio, they settled there. One of the sons, Joseph Bailey and his wife, Rachel Owens, were the only Baileys to move to Sunfield. They moved to this community with the intentions of starting a coal mine and farming.

Rachel and Joseph set up house keeping on the corner of Sherman and Front Streets.

Third Generation

Children of Joseph Bailey and Rachel Owens

1. Joseph Jr. married Elizabeth O'Keefe
2. Robert married Della Cuterell
3. William married Belle Payne, after her death he married Alice Meade
4. Henry married Elizabeth Terry
5. George married Mary Catherine Terry

6. Charlie married Minnie Bishop
7. Molly married James Lockhart

Fourth Generation

Children of Joe Jr. and Elizabeth O'Keefe

1. Rachel married George Eaton
2. Mary married Harley House
3. Arthur married Mabel Benedict
4. Carl married Mildred Marlow
5. Clarence married Mary Davison
6. Leslie married Lillian Asbury
7. Hershel Dean married Mildred Bishop
8. Annabell married Miles Vancil
9. Ruth married Jesse Rainwater
10. Esther married Lawrence Brock
11. Johnny married Inez Miller.

(Johnny was killed in a mine explosion.)

Children of Robert Bailey and Della Cuterell

1. Charlie married Nell Mankin
2. Luther married Eva Jones
3. Agnes married Otho Marson
4. Joe married Ruth Helvey
5. Della (unmarried)
6. Robert married Della Cross
7. Randolf married Mabel Runson
8. Gledith married Cecil Purnell
9. Lester married Viola Haycraft
10. Katie married Walter Nickens

Children of Wm. Bailey and Belle Payne

1. Myrtle married Virgil Hamilton
2. Marie married Harold Bishop
3. Aaron married Essie Waters
4. Clifford married Margaret Carlston

Children of Wm. Bailey and Alice Meade

1. James died in infancy
2. Allen married Mary Francis Schleper

Children of Henry Bailey and Elizabeth Terry

1. Harley married Alberta Willi
2. Hazel married Joe Joseph
3. Ray married
4. Wanda married

Children of George Bailey and Mary Catherine Terry

1. Violet married Thomas O'Keefe
2. Yallie Ray died at three months
3. Earl died at age of fifteen
4. Lavern married Bernice Bishop
5. Norma married Sivo Lay

Children of Charles Bailey and Minnie Bishop

1. Ethel (unmarried)
2. Resso married Dorothy Morris
3. Wesley married Leda Saunders

Fifth Generation

Children of Rachel Bailey and George Eaton

1. Joe married Edna Gore
2. Dorothy married Arthur Owsiany
3. Georgia married Nelson Gerdes, later married Pete Fiantaco
4. Katherine married Perry Ward

Children of Mary Bailey and Harley House

1. Flossie married Oran Logan
2. Joe married Pauline Keith
3. Marian married George Miller
4. Harry married Jean Cucutti
5. Milas married Earline Shoemaker. He later married Margie.....

Child of Arthur Bailey and Mabel Benedict

1. Lyle married Mary June Yates

Children of Clarence Bailey and Mary Davison

1. Freddy Paul married Barbara Biggs
2. Myron Dean married Angeline De Rossi
3. Loren married Norma McCroy
4. Richard was killed when hit by a car
5. Teddy Gene married Bobbie Joe Stowers

Child of Hershel Bailey and Mildred Bishop

1. Donald married Mauna Loa Runion

Children of Annabell Bailey and Miles Vancil

1. John (Sam) married Elaine Timpner
2. Howard married Nellie Cook
3. William married Norma Harris

Children of Ruth Bailey and Jesse Rainwater

1. Jerry married Virgilene Jackson
2. Charles (age 19)

Children of Esther Bailey and Lawrence Brock

1. Paul "Tiny" (age 24)
2. Martha (age 12)

Child of Johnny Bailey and Inez Miller

1. Carl David (age 25)

Children of Luther Bailey and Eva Jones

1. Fleta married Court Goodwin
2. Francis married Gene Slater

//

Children of Gledith Bailey and Cecil Purnell

1. Ray
2. Bradley

Children of Lester Bailey and Viola Haycraft

1. Beverly married Dwight Small
2. Gene married Neoma George
3. Barbara married Conrad Roach

Children of Violet Bailey and Tommy O'Keefe
(Refer to O'Keefe Family)

Children of Lavern Bailey and Bernice Bishop

1. Naoma Dot married Edmond Cooper
2. Mary Ellen married Gene Walters, later married Carl Roach
3. George married Kay Heape, later married Kathy Philbrick
4. James Earl (age 18)

Children of Norma Bailey and Sivo Lay

1. Ronald (age 20)
2. Lee Ellen married William Wilson

Children of Ressho Bailey and Dorothy Morris

1. Charles Wayne married Marie Arrington
2. Juanita (unmarried)

Children of Wesley Bailey and Leda Saunders

1. Ruth Ellen (age 16)
2. Janet (age 12)

Sixth Generation

Children of John Vancil and Elaine Timpner

1. Deborah (age 12)
2. David (age 11)
3. Roger "Dennis" (age 10)
4. Darryl (age 4)
5. Denise (age 3)

Children of Howard Vancil and Nellie Cook

1. Linda (age 8)
2. Joe (age 5)
3. Leslie (age 1 1/2)

Children of William Vancil and Norma Harris

1. Julia (age 8)
2. Jane (age 4)

Children of Jerry Rainwater and Virgilene Jackson

1. Teresa (age 4)
2. Johnny (age 3)

12

Children of Frances Bailey and Gene Slater

1. Robert married Tommie CeVene
2. Claudia (age 19)
3. Jo Ellen (age 11)
4. Toni (age 5)

Children of Fleta Bailey and Court Goodwin

1. Larry married Karen Moody
2. Charles married Wanda Hahn
3. Dennis married Teddy Bernhardt. He was killed in a train accident at the Sunfield Crossing.

Child of Lee Ellen Lay and Wm. Wilson

1. Gregory William (age 2 months)

Child of George Bailey and Kay Heape

1. Ronda (age 5)

Child of George Bailey and Kathy Philbrick

1. Kevin (age 2)

O'KEEFES

The O'Keefes came to this community from Texas because they objected to slavery. The south had tried to force Thomas I to fight for their causes but he refused. After the Southern forces had stolen all their possessions except a couple of horses the O'Keefes fled from Texas to Elkville.

Riding by night and hiding by day O'Keefe traveled alone on horseback, to Elkville where he joined the Northern forces. By the time he had served about a month the war ended.

In the meantime his wife Mary and their three children Tom II, Mary, and Ellen were journeying to Elkville alone in a crude, make-shift wagon made by her husband. It took them three or four months, while it took her husband only three or four weeks to make the long, hard journey.

After the family was reunited at Elkville Thomas O'Keefe began working as a foreman on the Illinois Central Railroad. As the railroad construction moved northward to Sunfield, O'Keefe became interested in mining and left his railroad job to work in the mines.

Shortly thereafter O'Keefe moved his family to this community. They lived near the present Joe Eaton home. After they had lived in Illinois a while they had two other children, Elizabeth and Margaret.



Mrs. Thomas O'Keefe I, a pioneer mother who came alone from Texas with her three children.

Third Generation

Children of Thomas O'Keefe II and Minerva Bishop

1. John married Dora Polly
2. William died in infancy
3. Owen married Lola Anderson
4. Thomas III married Violet Bailey
5. Henry married Edith Jackson
6. Elizabeth married Williard Lively
7. Minnie married Fred Mathis
8. Mary Ellen (Ella) married Amiel Tate
She later married Bert Smith
9. Della married Frank McClelland
10. Margaret married Elzie Silkwood

Children of Mary O'Keefe and Mike Durkin

1. Jim married Lyla Robinson
2. Mayme married Henry Jones
3. Margaret married Andrew Springer
4. Ellen married Henry Hickson
5. Katy married Earl Rodden

Children of Ellen O'Keefe and Tom Yates

1. Tommy married Matilda Michelson
2. Joe married Julia Ramsey
3. Anna married Dave Bailey
4. Elizabeth married Grant Jones
5. Mary married Pleasant Bullock
6. Vera married Rufus Harrison

Children of Margaret O'Keefe and Randolph Bishop

(Refer to Bishop Family)

Children of Elizabeth O'Keefe and Joe Bailey

(Refer to Bailey Family)

Fourth Generation

Children of John O'Keefe and Dora Polly

1. Doye married Glenna Harris and later married Thelma Crow
2. Nellie married Parley King
3. Modlin married Moore
4. Isabel married Karl Marlow
She later married William Kearbey

Children of Owen O'Keefe and Lola Anderson

1. Maxine married Bernard Brand
2. Kenneth married
3. Virginia married Donald Hutchins
4. Tom IV married
5. Robert (unmarried)

(These children all left Sunfield after their marriage)

Children of Thomas O'Keefe III and Violet Bailey

(Tommy was former Sheriff of Perry County for 2 terms)

1. June Eilene married Fred Gans (Living in Salina, Kansas)
2. Mary Jane married Jacey Axley (Living in Phoenix, Arizona)
3. Maurice (Moe) married Betty Jackson

Children of Mary Ellen O'Keefe and Amiel Tate

1. Lillian
2. Donald married Dempsey
3. Dean married (Dean died in hunting accident)

Children of Jim Durkin and Lyla Robinson

1. Gledith died at age of 15 in 1908.

Children of Mayme Durkin and Henry Jones

1. Eva married Luther Bailey
2. Carl (unmarried)

3. Harley married Alberta Burke (Carl and Harley are twins)
4. Mike (unmarried)
5. Herschel (Pete) married Clara Huffstutler

Children of Margaret Durkin and Andrew Springer

1. Carrie married Branson
2. George married

Children of Tommy Yates and Matilda Michelson

1. Gertrude married Burley Greenwood
2. Carl
3. Nellie
4. Lindsay
5. Mabel
6. Joe

Child of Joe Yates and Julia Ramsey

1. adopted Naomia

Children of Elizabeth Yates and Grant Jones

1. Florence married Ira Switzer
2. Ella married Carl Becker
3. Aaron
4. Mary

Fifth Generation

Children of Doye O'Keefe and Glenna Harris

1. Doye Jr.
2. Gail

Children of Doye O'Keefe and Thelma Crow

1. Jackie

Children of Isabel O'Keefe and Carl Marlow

1. Kay Marlow married
2. Becky married Williams

Child of Isabel O'Keefe and William Kearbey

1. John

A granddaughter, Jonnie Kay Williams makes her home
with the Kearbeys

Children of Maurice O'Keefe and Betty Jackson

1. Cheryl
2. Shawn

Children of Eva Jones and Luther Bailey

(Refer to Bailey Family)

Children of Hershel Jones and Clara Huffstutler

1. Shirley married Kenneth Ruff
2. John married Linda Foutch
3. Mark (age 14)

Sixth Generation

Children of John Jones and Linda Foutch

1. Cynthia (age 6)
2. Paul (age 4)
3. Charles (age 2)

THE SAUNDERS FAMILY

The Saunders' originally came from Germany. Franklin Saunders and Mahalia Brown were the first Saunders' to come to America. They settled first in Tennessee. When they came here, they settled in Holden.

Second Generation

Children of Franklin Saunders and Mahalia Brown

1. James Sr. married Rachel Plumlee
2. Sarah (moved after marriage)
3. John married Cora (moved after marriage)
4. Nan married Lee Giles (moved after marriage)
5. Mary Francis married John Jacob Quillman

Third Generation

Children of James Saunders and Rachel Plumlee

1. Robert married Leda Kate Marsteiner
2. James Jr. died in infancy
3. Della (unmarried, died at age 21)
4. Dora married George Bishop
5. Harry died at age 16 in hunting accident
6. Oscar married Ada Brayfield (moved after marriage)
7. Sam married Florance Silkwood (moved after marriage)
8. Etta Dot (unmarried, died at age 21)

Children of Mary Francis Saunders and John J. Quillman
(Refer to Quillman Family)

Fourth Generation

Children of Robert Saunders and Leda Kate Marsteiner

1. Joseph married Relda Keck
2. Peggy (unmarried)
3. Esther died in infancy
4. Catherine married Arnold Schutt
5. Leda married Wesley Bailey

Child of Dora Saunders and George Bishop
(Refer to Bishop Family)

Fifth Generation

Children of Leda Saunders and Wesley Bailey
(Refer to Bailey Family)

THE TERRY FAMILY

We were unable to obtain any definite information as to where the Terry family came from, why and when they came, but it is believed they came to this community from Paradise Prairie community. The first of the family that we know anything of is Peter, Hansel, and Robert Terry, who were brothers. It is believed that they may have come because of the coal mining. Peter Terry married Sarah Ann Trail. Robert Terry married Mary Glover. We were unable to learn anything of the other brother, Hansel.

Second Generation

Children of Peter Terry and Sarah Ann Trail

1. Julia married Alfred Lee
2. Susan married James Rice
3. Martha married King Hodge
4. James married Martha Robinson
5. Alex married Nettie Lindsay
6. Joe married Ella Brock

Children of Robert Terry and Mary Glover

1. Ike married Leona Rice
2. John
3. Adelia married Henry D. Eaton
4. Liza married Johnson Brayfield
5. Dollie married Wm. Michelson

Third Generation

Children of Julia Terry and Alfred Lee

1. Alice died at age 17
2. Katie married Walter Schickendanz
3. Howard married Amy House

Children of Susan Terry and James Rice

1. Bert married Armeadie Klamp
2. Leonard married Jessie Hartley
3. Inez married Edward Furlow

Children of Martha Terry and King Hodge

1. Alva married Dolly
2. Hiley married Mary Palmer
3. Lyle married Mary

Children of James Terry and Martha Robinson

1. Flora married Benny Thimmig
2. Lawrence married Mayme
3. Blanche married Bobby Cathcart

Children of Alex Terry and Nettie Lindsay

1. Georgie died at age 2
2. Fleta married Lester Morris
3. Marjorie married Joe Bianco

Children of Joe Terry and Ella Brock

1. Golda married Harry Chappel
2. Lee married
3. Fleta married Mike Krause

Fourth Generation

Child of Katie and Walter Schickendanz

1. Lee married Naomi Biggs

Children of Fleta Terry and Lester Morris

1. Helen married Luther Pierce
2. Alice Dean (Pat) married William Wilks
3. Mary Frances married Kenneth Bird
4. Joe married Mary Lou Hofstetter
5. Gene married Phyllis Yehling
6. Marjorie Mae married Roger Schenk

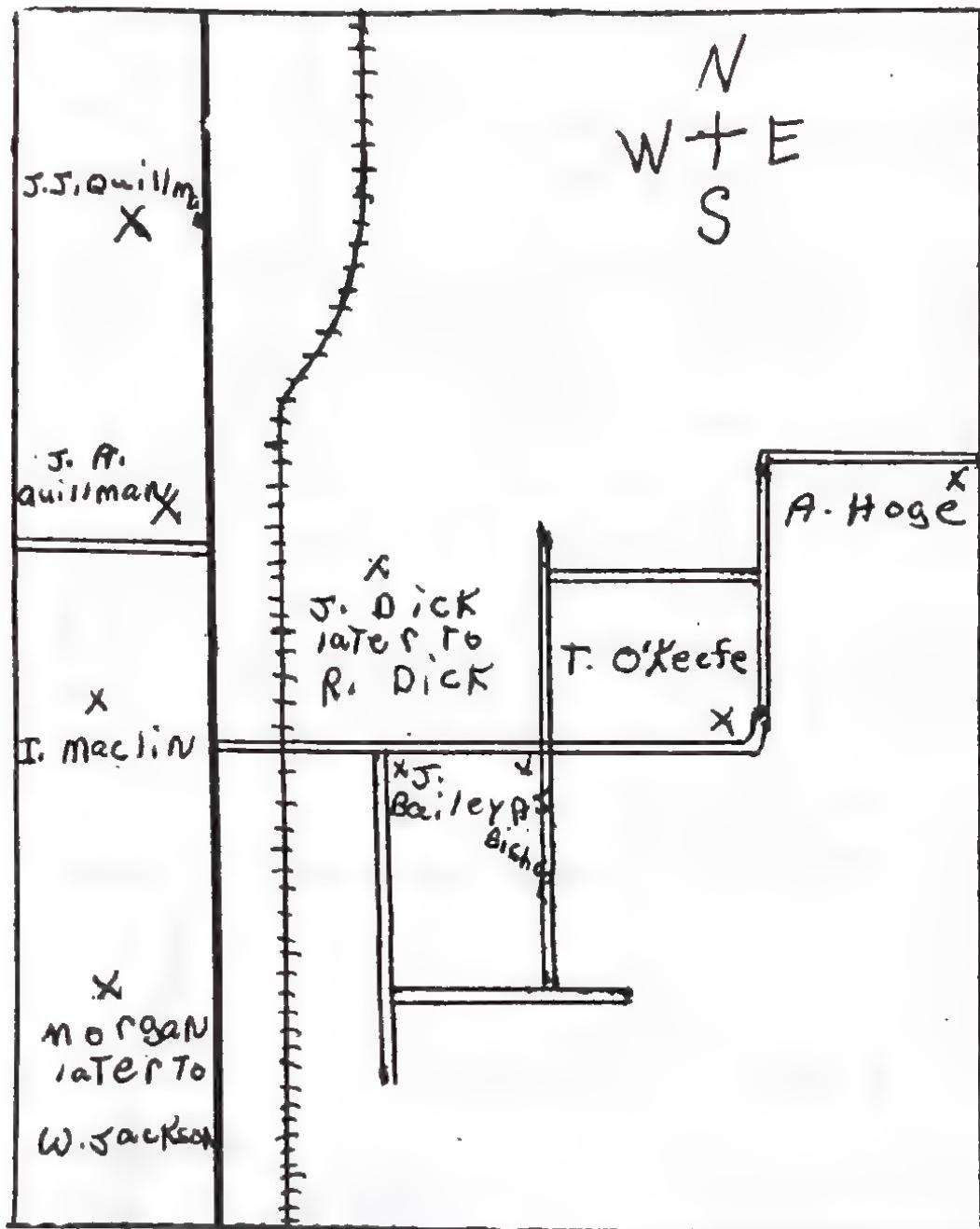


Alex Terry's residence, located where John (Jack) Bishop resides today.

OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

Other early settlers were:

Mary Fillmore (mother of Wm. Henry Tate), John Rogers, John Glover, Robert Wynn, John Buchanan (a superintendent of Sun Coal and Coke Co. No. 3), Jack Lindsay, Tom Fleming, Henry Kimmel, George Dana, Mike Foley, Bill Greenwood, and Judge Plumlee (a brick maker).



DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

LAND TRANSFERS and SURVEYS

The following information copied from the original Abstract of Conveyances and Incumbrances shows how some of the land which now makes up Sunfield had been handed down:

United States to John N. Thompson September 12, 1839, tracts of land and quantities were selected by Illinois Central Railroad Co. in the county of Perry, State of Illinois, as authorized by act of Congress, approved September 20, 1850, and certified to said company on March 13, 1852.

John N. Thompson and wife to Isaac A. Lemmons and wife on April 5, 1857.

Isaac A. Lemmons and wife to Van M. Lemmons on June 7, 1859.

Van M. Lemmons and wife to Isaac A. Lemmons on December 7, 1860.

Isaac A. Lemmons and Lydia, his wife to James Dick, 1/23/1862 of the cons. of \$1,200.00 deeds the N.W. 1/4 of the N.W. 1/4 of Sec. 29 and S.W. 1/4 of the S.W. 1/4 of Sec. 20; Except 200 ft. occupied by the Illinois Central Railroad: All in TWP. 5 S., R. 1, W. of 3rd P.M. containing 68 acres more or less.
(Perry County Record of Deeds. Vol. L, P. 336.)

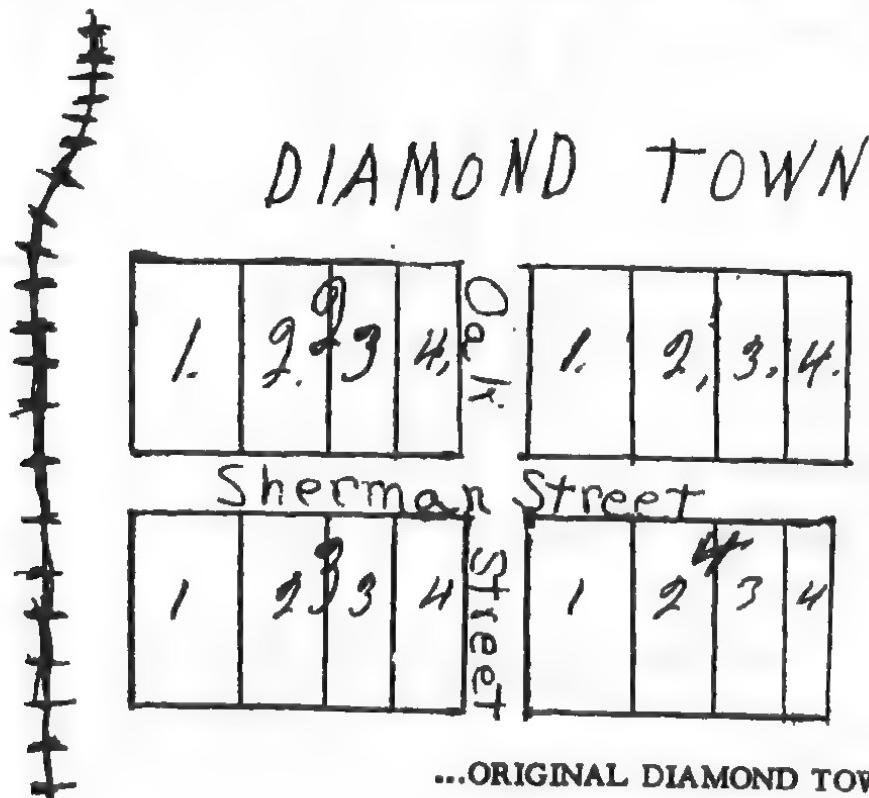
The following is a description of the original plat of Diamond Town

James Dick to Diamond Town

Surveyed for James Dick the N.W. 1/4 of the N.W. 1/4 Sec. 29 T 5 S, R 1, commencing at a stone in the N.E. corner running thence S. 20.05 chains to a stone, thence W. 20.05 chains to a stake thence N. 20.05 chains, thence W. 20.05 chains to a stake, thence N. 20.05 chains, thence E. 20.05 chains to the beginning, this September 15, 1864.

William H. Lovelady
Surveyor
Perry County, Ill.

(Taken from Deed and Records, Perry County, Vol. S, p. 282.)

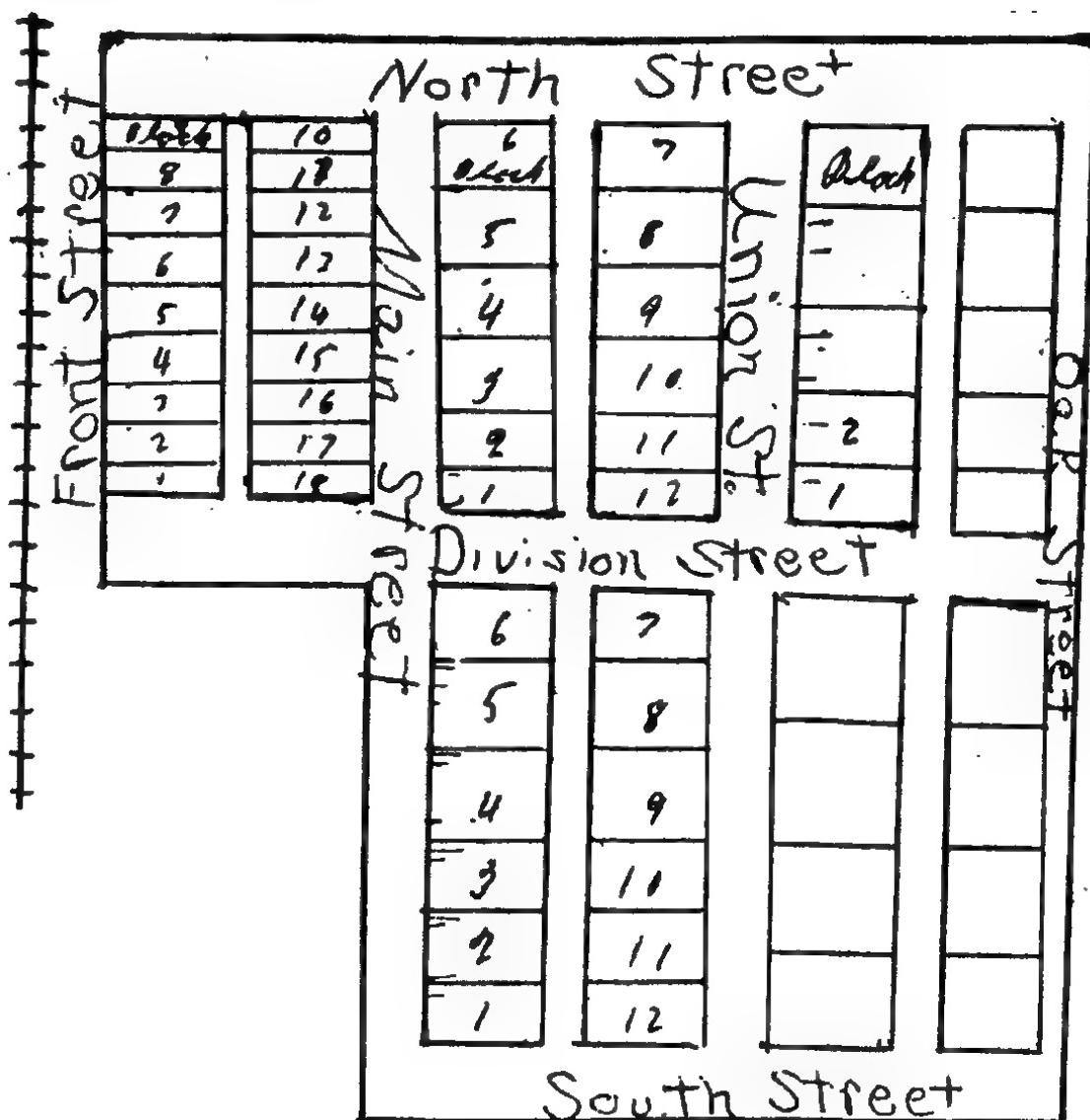


Wall and Mitchell Addition

Wall & Mitchell Addition to Diamond City being laid off on the N.E. part of the S.W. 1/4 of the N.W. 1/4 of Sect. 29, T 5, R 1, W on the E. side of the Illinois Central R.R. Done this April 20th, 1886.

**Surveyed by
William H. Lovelady
April 20, 1866.**

April 20, 1880.
(Taken from Deeds & Records, Perry County. Vol. S, p. 431).



Wall and Mitchell Addition to Diamond City formerly Diamond Town

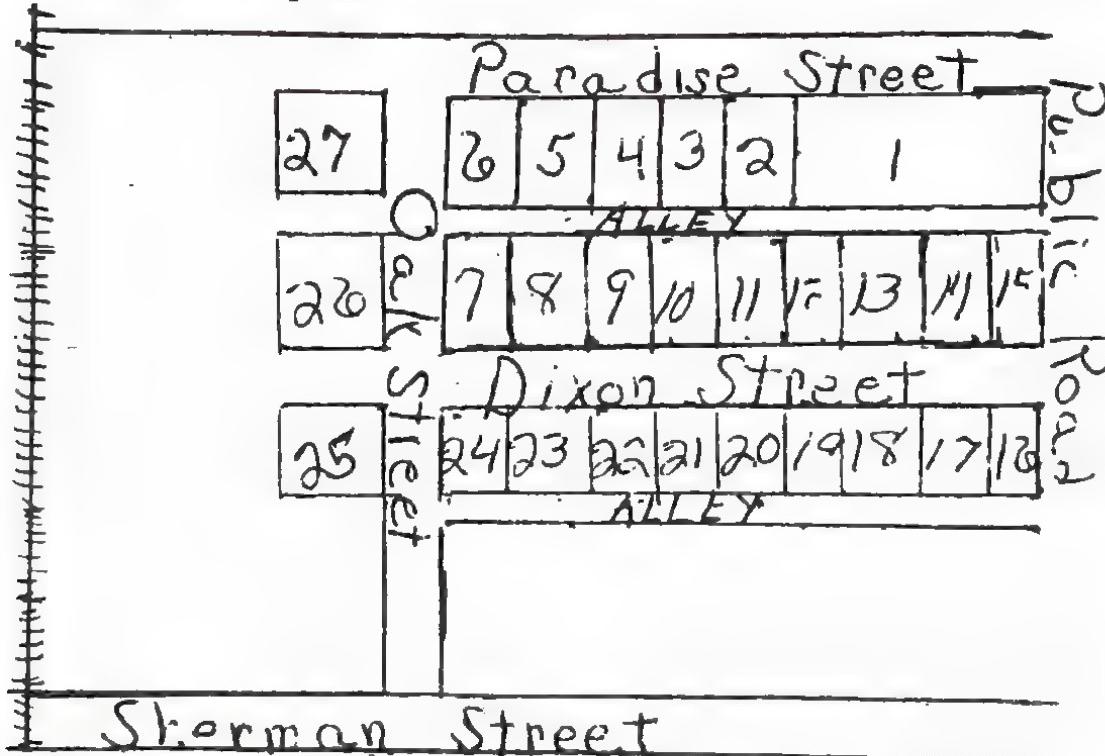
Robert Dick Addition

Surveyed for Robert Dick, an addition to Diamond City located on the N.E. 1/4 of N.W. - N.W. of Sec. 29 in T 5, S., R.1 West of the 3rd P.M. Starting at the original corner of Sec. 19, 20, 29, and 30 running east on Sec. line 1,300 feet, thence south across Paradise St. 30 ft. 3 in., drove iron pin at N.E. corner of lot one, thence south 383 ft. drove iron pin at the S.E. corner lot 16 thence West 635 ft. Drove iron pin at S.W. corner lot 25 thence North parallel to I.C.R.R. 383 feet drove iron pin at N.W. corner lot 27 thence E. 639 feet to N.E. corner lot one. Then subdivided into lots laying out streets and alleys as shown in accompanying plat.

Wm. M. Eaton, Surveyor

Alva Eaton, Asst.

(Taken from Miscellaneous Records Perry County, Vol. 37, Nov. 1903) p. 465



...Robert Dick Addition to Diamond City.

Some of the oldest tax records available in the Perry County Court House were:

J. A. Lemmons paid taxes amounting to \$1.43 on forty acres of land in N.W. N.W. of Sec. 29, T 5, S., R 1 W. of 3rd P.M.
Valuation \$160.00.

(Diamond Town located in this quarter section.)

John C. Dodge paid taxes amounting to \$1.43 on forty acres of land in S.W. N.W. of Sec. 29, T 5S, R 1 W. of 3rd P.M. Valuation \$160.00
(Diamond Town located in this quarter section.)

INDUSTRIES

THE COAL MINES

The mines were the backbone of Sunfield's history. At one time they employed more than half of the community's population.

The first mine of our community, the Black Diamond Mine, was owned and operated by Jimmy Dick, a man from Scotland. Its location was approximately 135 yards north of the site of the present school.

While the Black Diamond Mine was still in operation, a #2 mine was sunk in 1866 or 1867 south of the present residence of Mr. Don Wright. John T. Bishop and Joe Bailey, at the age of eleven or twelve, received \$0.50 for a ten hour day working as trapper for the number two mine.

Around 1880, the third mine was sunk by the Sun Coal and Coke Co. It was located directly east of Tennison's Service Station. The number of tons produced in this mine in 1884 was 3,894 and the number employed was 64.* J. Buchanan, a native of Scotland, became stockholder and later superintendent of Sun Coal and Coke Co. In 1901, this mine was sold to Bailey Bros. The number of tons produced in that year by Bailey Bros. was 34,000 with 55 employees.* This mine was operated by Bailey Bros. until it burned in 1910.

The 4th mine, which was sunk in 1901 by Doug Eaton and sons, A.M. and M.A. Revelle, and Ed House, was located directly west of the present Sunfield across highway 51. It was called the Eaton Fuel Company. This mine also went by the name of Bailey Bros. Mine because of a co-ownership with Eaton Fuel. The number of tons produced in 1904 was 21,975 and there were 52 employees.*

As the number of stockholders in Eaton Fuel Co. (Bailey Bros. Mine) increased the name was changed to Diamond Fuel Co. in 1906. The number employed was 41 and the mine produced 24,730 tons.* Later Bailey Bros. Coal Company.

Lucius Smith of Du Quoin, when a boy of only 7 or 8 years brought the payroll of \$1200.00--\$1300.00 in cash to the Bailey Mine office. He rode with the money strapped on a horse. He received \$.25 for every trip he made. According to records of the Bailey Bros. mine the highest paycheck recorded was \$44. and the lowest was \$6. When Social Security was first started one cent was checked off every dollar.

A prominent figure in the mines was the mine mule. The mine mules were used to pull empty cars into different rooms and haul loaded ones out. The mine mules were only brought out a short while in the spring, during a strike, or rumors of a strike. Even though the approximate height of the mules was only 4 feet, their backs sometimes scraped the ceilings of the mine tunnels. The mules were not tied up at night or day, but they knew better than to run away because if they got lost they would die.

The electricity for Sunfield and Tamaroa was first generated by an old motor at the Bailey Bros. Mine. After electricity became cheaper and more available, the miners put a light down with the mules.

The Bailey Bros. Mine was also the first to introduce a telephone in Sunfield. This telephone was installed in their mine office in 1920.

*Received from Dept. of Mines and Minerals in Springfield.

The miners held their meetings once a week in the Lodge Hall, a building that was just east of our present school. Miners were the only persons allowed to enter the building, and it was told that if children ever entered an old goat would boot them out.



The Bailey Brothers' Mine

FARMING

When the settlers came to this community most of the land was covered with woods. The Baileys, Jacksons, Huges, Kimmels, and others worked at clearing the land for farming. The land was very fertile. The Hoge's and Kimmel's, some of the earliest settlers, devoted all of their time to farming. Bill Jackson, although involved in other businesses, did farming on a large scale too.

Although the main occupation of many of the other settlers was mining, they had to farm also. Since the mines worked such few days a week, especially in the summer, it was barely possible for the men to support their families; therefore they spent the rest of their time farming.

BRICKYARD

As you know, years ago people used bricks in building homes, wells, schools etc. just as they do now. But also, the same as now, the people had to have a place to get brick. This place was a brickyard. Diamond Town, as Sunfield used to be known, had a brickyard.

In 1878, Bill Jackson, who came to our community as a railroad

worker set up a brickyard which he owned and managed. He employed quite a few men. In those days bricks were made by hand, with the use of molds. Some of the molders were Randolph Bishop, Judge Plumlee and Thomas O'Keefe II. These men received \$1.00 a day for a 10 hr. day.

Jackson's brickyard produced the first bricks used in some of the main streets in Du Quoin. Having produced such fine bricks he accepted a contract with Perry County to furnish the bricks for the Court House in Pinckneyville.

Due to the difficulty of transporting the bricks from Diamond Town to Pinckneyville another yard was set up on the other side of Beaucoup Creek.

Jackson's bricks were sold over a wide territory. He took many bricks to St. Johns and from there he shipped them by train to other territories.

Around 1900, when machines began to produce bricks Jackson went out of business.

Even so, Bill Jackson had done his part in promoting Sunfield's prosperity.

Although we were unable to learn much about it, we do know that Joe Greenwood operated a brickyard behind the present Cecil Hariss home.

BUSINESSES

STORES

Although Sunfield has no stores now, it has had several during it's history. The first store near the present site of Tennison's Service Station was owned by the Sun Coal & Coke Company. This store, it was said, handled anything which her customers needed. It was not unusual for people of the community to walk in with a basket of eggs or some vegetables to trade for what they needed. Axum Revelle, when a very small tyke, drove a delivery wagon for this store.

Gus Griffy started another store at the site of the present home of Ethel Bailey. This store was later taken over by Pete Terry.

Randolph Bishop started a store in 1905 right across the alley from Gus Griffy's store. They often had words concerning the loss or gain of customers.

Doug Eaton's small store was located a little north of where the Sunfield Baptist Church is now standing.

Jim Eaton's store, located at the Foutch corner, was a confectionery and a grocery store. This was a very popular hang-out for the kids.

The Bailey Bros. owned a store located between the Wesley Bailey residence and the I.C.R.R. This was a general store because it handled groceries and many other items. If they wished, the customers could order things from a catalog and receive them in a matter of days. It was not uncommon in the early days to walk into a store and see barrels lined up, which contained pickles, crackers, pickled pig's feet, sauerkraut, etc. Howard Bishop drove a delivery hack for the Bailey Bros. store.



Howard Bishop, driving the delivery hack for the Bailey's Store. The mules name is Red Jack.



This poor old Ford was the first delivery truck for the Bailey Brothers Store.

In more recent years, a store was also in the former Eaton Garage. At one time it was under the management of Dora West and later, Lyle Bailey.

There was also a store directly south of the present Sunfield Baptist Church. This store was owned by the late Will Morgenstern and leased to several individuals. Some of these were: Earl Eaton, Lavern Bailey and Lester Bridges.

BLACKSMITH SHOP

Did you ever hear the saying "Go shoe a horse."? Well, maybe not, but George Dana must have. As people continued to settle here there was a growing need for a blacksmith. Horses needed shoeing; wagons, buggies, and farm machinery needed repairing; and kitchen utensils needed mending. To fulfill these needs, George Dana started a blacksmith shop on the north side of Sherman Street and directly east of John (Jack) Bishop's residence.

After Dana had operated the shop for a few years, the town was voted wet. Dana, thinking a saloon would be more profitable, changed his smithy into a saloon.

For a year George Dana enjoyed making money by selling his liquor. Then because the men were getting so rough, in the next election, Sunfield was voted dry. Dana having no choice, turned his saloon back into a smithy. It stayed a smithy until George Dana went out of business.

LUMBERYARD

As the people started moving here there was a great demand for lumber to build houses. So the Bailey Bros. started a lumber yard near the present Clarence (Ted) Bailey home. At times the Baileys traveled to nearby states to promote the sale of their lumber and to replenish their stock.

CONFECTIONERY

In the earliest days of Sunfield when the younger generation wasn't working they could sometimes be found in a confectionery. Yes, Sunfield had Confectioneries. As a matter of fact, it had two or three, although each was open at different times. One of them, run by John Terri, was near the present Red Morris home. Another was located where the Fouch's home is now standing. It was run by Jim Eaton. There was also a small confectionery in the Bailey Bros. Company Store.

BARBER SHOP

John Terri, one of the early settlers, started a barber shop between the present Wesley Bailey and Red Morris home. After a while he changed his barber shop into a confectionery. He soon changed it back into a barber shop.

Shortly thereafter the barber shop was moved west of the Bailey Brothers Company Store. When the post office was moved to this location the building which housed the Barber Shop was moved to the Bailey Brothers mine and was converted into an office..

SALOONS

You may not believe it, but Sunfield was once quite a rough town. As a matter of fact, there were a few saloons. One of these was run by George Dana, the blacksmith.

Another saloon was called the Blind Tiger. It was rather mysterious because few people knew who owned it. It was said that this saloon had a slit in the wall into which no one could see. When a customer laid his money down in front of the slit a man's hand reached out, took the money, and replaced it with a bottle of whiskey.

After the saloons had been open a while, the men started to get extremely rough. One night when the Du Quoin Band was playing for an engagement in the town there was a big fight. The band members became frightened and took off to hide. Some tried to hide in gutters and elsewhere. The one playing the tuba tried to crawl under the church house but got stuck.

In a short while the more peaceful residents decided they had better do something. They called another election to determine the legality of liquor. By the time the election came around everything was so routh that most of the citizens must have thought it best to vote the saloons out. The election was held and the dry vote won. That was the end of the saloons.

MOLASSES MILLS

Children of earlier times couldn't buy candy any time they wanted it, but on rare occasions they could buy penny candy. In the winter when the children got a craving for candy they made it with molasses from the molasses mills.

Diamond Town at different times had molasses mills. The first one was located near the present Herbert Hamilton home. It was owned and operated by Mary Fillmore, the mother of Wm. Henry Tate.

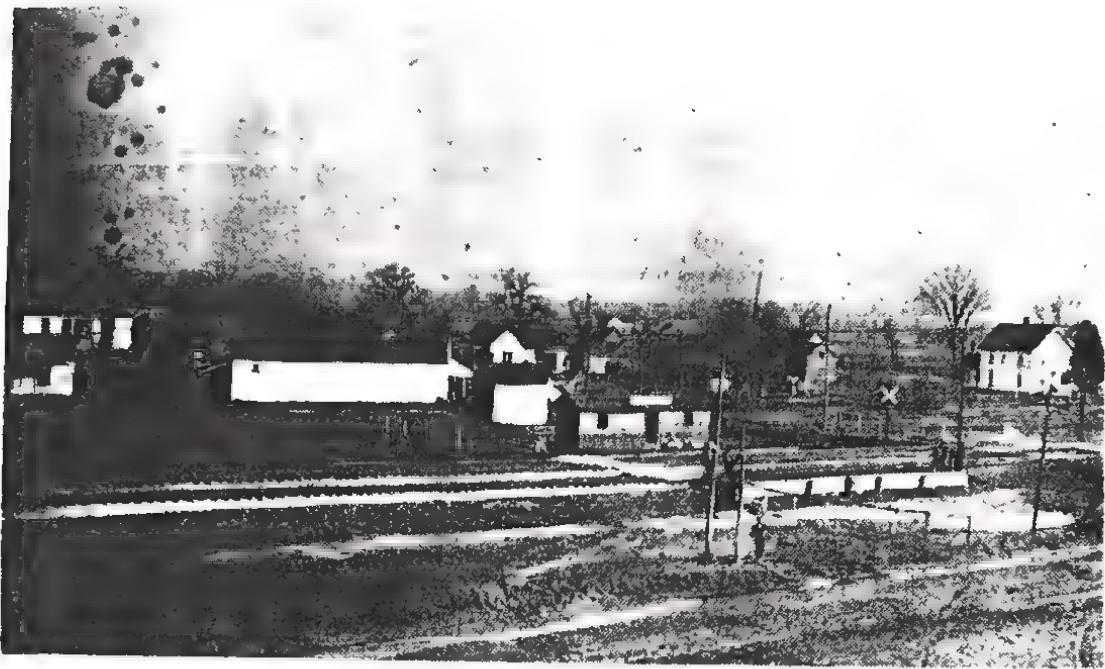
The second molasses mill was located near the present residence of Ezra Feltmeyer. It was owned and operated by Wash Groserman.

SERVICES

DEPOT

Sunfield once had a depot. It stood west of the Wesley Bailey home. The waiting station stood directly across the track from the depot. At first the depot consisted of only a small platform and a boxcar in which freight was stored. Later a small, frame building was built.

Trains used to stop twice in the morning and twice in the evening. If anyone wished to ride a train between the regular stops they had to flag it down.



The small building across the track with the sign is the Depot. The white two-story house to the extreme right is Alice Bailey's home. Behind the depot is the Post Office. The long white building is the old Company Store. In the background, to the extreme left is the school.

POST OFFICE

As our community grew into a small town there was a need for a post office. The first post office was established next to the Sun Coal & Coak Company Mine where Tennison's Service Station is today. It was called Sunfield. (To learn how the name Sunfield was selected refer to "Naming of the Community"). It is not known for sure how long the post office remained at this location. However, as better facilities were available and more people were moving into Diamond City the post office was moved south to this location.

The second post office was built between where Wesley Bailey lives today and the Illinois Central Railroad tracks. This post office later was adjoined to the Bailey Brothers Company Store. After some years when Sunfield was put on a Du Quoin rural route this post office was discontinued.

As far as we know William Henry Tate served as postmaster at both post offices.

The only official record available concerning the Post Office is a "Cash Book" showing money orders issued from August 14, 1909 - October 1, 1917. William H. Tate was listed as Postmaster during these years, but Joe Bailey was listed as Acting Postmaster during the last month.



JAILS

Due to some of the problems which arose from the Wet Vote, Diamond City had to have a jail. At one time, one was located near the corner of Sherman and Oak Street by the present Ronald Shirk home, and at another time, one was located on Paradise Street behind the present Methodist Church. There has been some disagreement as to which of these jails was the first. We do know they were not at the same time. When the town became unincorporated the jails were no longer used.

Burley Greenwood, now deceased, was the first Constable in Diamond City. Bill Bishop took the job after Greenwood quit.

SCHOOLS

One of the first records of any schooling received by Diamond Town's earliest settlers was that of Elizabeth Morgan who attended a Pay School which was located near the present Guy Marlow residence in the Consolidated 204 Community. David M. Hoge was the teacher at that time.

Later in the year 1870, the first school in our community was set up in a small wooden, one-room shed with a dirt floor. This school was located behind the Quillman home on the north corner where the Lane Road and Highway 51 meet. It was so terribly cold in this school that in 1871, the school was moved and held in a shed a block west on the south side of the road.

In 1872 a small one-room, red brick building was built at the site of the present school. (The red brick used in this school was made by Sunfield's brickyard). The gradual movement of settlers to this community brought on an increased enrollment. Eventually when the enrollment reach 98 the need for a larger school was so great that a new two-room frame structure was erected in 1903.

Some of the earliest teachers were Arthur Hoge, Frank Page, Johnnn Whitlock, Mrs. Huggins, Arthur Lee, and Logan Kimsey.

At one time the monthly salary for teaching and fulfilling the duties of a janitor was approximately \$65, while teachers of today receive about \$400 to \$500 monthly for a twelve month period for just fulfilling the duties of a teacher.

Teachers since the year 1908 have been Blanch Robertson, Edward V. Pierce, Ralph Chapman, Lily E. Rhine, Nettie Keene, Janie Pierce, Verda Alexander, Frank W. Keith, Mona Block, Meaddie Klamp, Ethel Branum, Irene Veron Brock, Emily B. Huntley, Ada Livingston, S. W. Ragland, William Godwin, Neoma Benedict, Frank R. Chapman, Harley Quillman, Idene Eaton, Lucille Pyatt, Ted Ruslewski, Charles Neville, Georgia Rogers, John Biby, Marion K. Blythe, Mrs. Edna Medsker, Marion Webb, Carrie Yates, John E. Lee, Mayme Bagwill, Ethel Baily, Ruth Bailey, Lela May Runck, Christima Carter, Alta Thimmig, Alice Bailey, Bertha Heape, Marcia Pendexter, Perry Lee Jacoby, Lavina Jones, and Mildred Hirsch.

ORCHIDS TO MISS ETHEL

One of these teachers, Miss Ethel Bailey, taught for a longer period of time than any other teacher in our school. She taught in the Sunfield School for thirty years. In some families she had taught as many as two generations. Miss Ethel was loved and admired by every child she ever taught.

She retired in June 1965, and is now doing some of the things which she never had time to enjoy while she was teaching.



(In the foreground) A spinning jenny. (In the background) The present frame school as it was originally built.

INTERESTING NOTES TAKEN FROM OLD RECORDS

October 19-October 30-School closed on account of diphteria (1911)

October 20-27-School closed on account of diphteria (1912)

Bessie Overturf, age 6, died November 22, 1908.

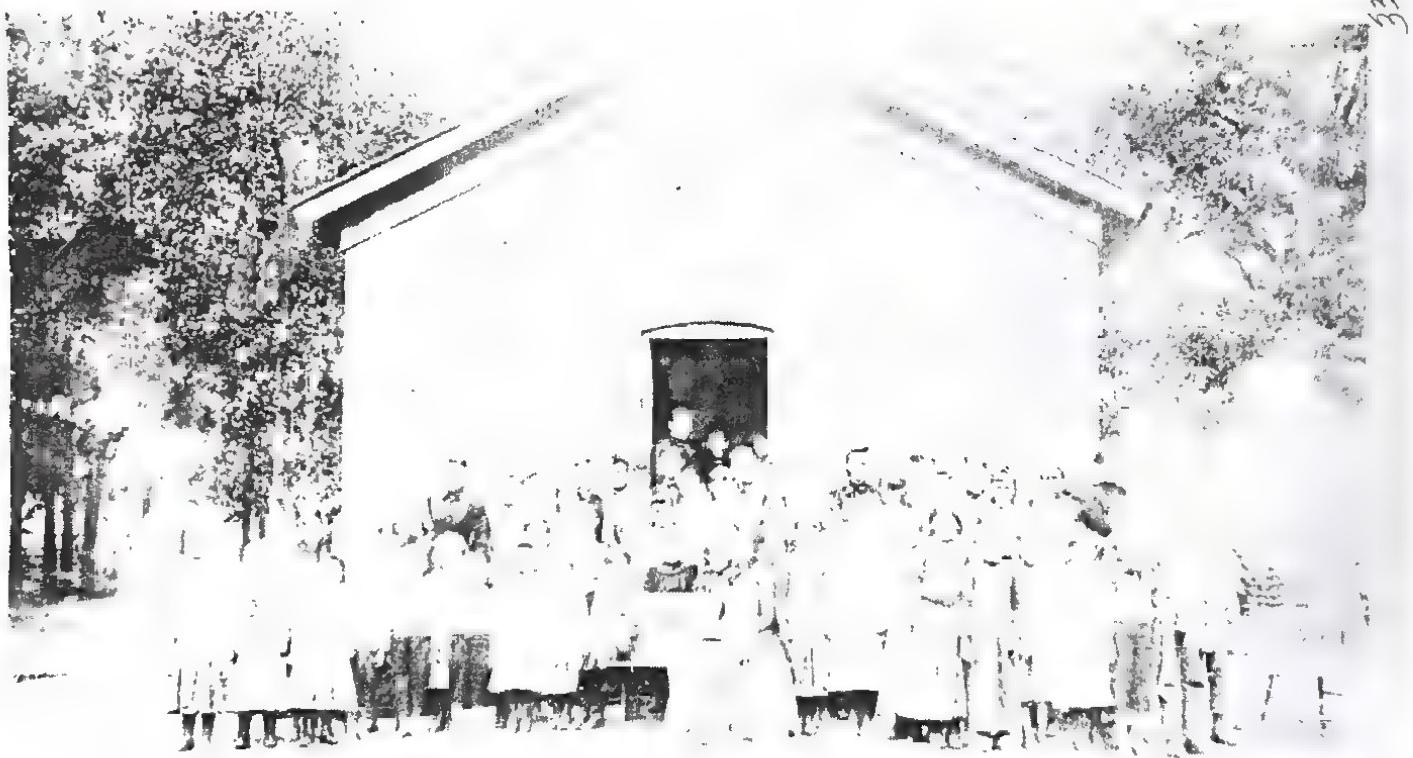
George Bishop died October 16, 1908.

Month of March 1909-Dismissed on account of sickness.

1915, 1918, 1919 dismissed for Perry County Fair

Oct. 21-Dec. 31, 1918-Discontinued on account of Spanish influenza.

School was dismissed to put up stoves (November 5, 1911)



Brick school which was built in 1872. (Note rail fence in background.)

33



Arthur Lee and pupils standing beside the Red Brick Schoolhouse.

the

CHURCHES

Our community's first church, which was a Methodist Church, was organized in 1871 by Joseph Bailey Sr. and family, John Short and family, James Saunders and family, and Pete Terry and family. It was located where the Sunfield Baptist Church is now standing. This group of Methodists built their one room church on a small plot of land given to them by Mr. Teague. A Methodist minister came from Du Quoin every Sunday and held services there for the people. When the minister was no longer able to come, services were discontinued.

Soon a tramp preacher traveling through decided to hold Baptist services in the Methodist church building. Later while the Baptist services were still being held, a minister from the Methodist conference learned that the Baptists were having services in the Methodist church. While the Methodist minister was trying to get the church back, the Baptists did some investigating and found that the Methodists did not have a deed to the land. So the Baptists proceeded to get the deed, and the property was theirs. Therefore the Methodists had no legal claim to the land, but they claimed the building. A group of Methodist men jacked it up and hauled it to a small plot adjoining the Baptist land. This move then left the Baptists without a building in which to hold their services. The Baptists then built their own church that is presently standing on the same plot of land. In early 1966 they built an addition to the front of the church and redecorated the interior of the sanctuary.

The Methodists later moved their church to another spot. The following is a transfer of land to the Methodist Church taken from records from the Perry County Court House: James Dick to trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church south for their society at Diamond Town, Illinois, lot 4, block 2 in Diamond Town, except coal, January 24, 1873. \$30.00 (Deed record 1. Page 184)

The Trustees are individually listed as:

Green Smith
Joseph Bailey
John Short
Joseph Wilkison
Joshua Whitehead

The church that was built on this property stood until it burned in 1937. The church that is presently standing was then built. In 1964 the Methodists built an addition to the east side of this building.

CHURCHES

Our community's first church, which was a Methodist Church, was organized in 1871 by Joseph Bailey Sr. and family, John Short and family, James Saunders and family, and Pete Terry and family. It was located where the Sunfield Baptist Church is now standing. This group of Methodists built their one room church on a small plot of land given to them by Mr. Teague. A Methodist minister came from Du Quoin every Sunday and held services there for the people. When the minister was no longer able to come, services were discontinued.

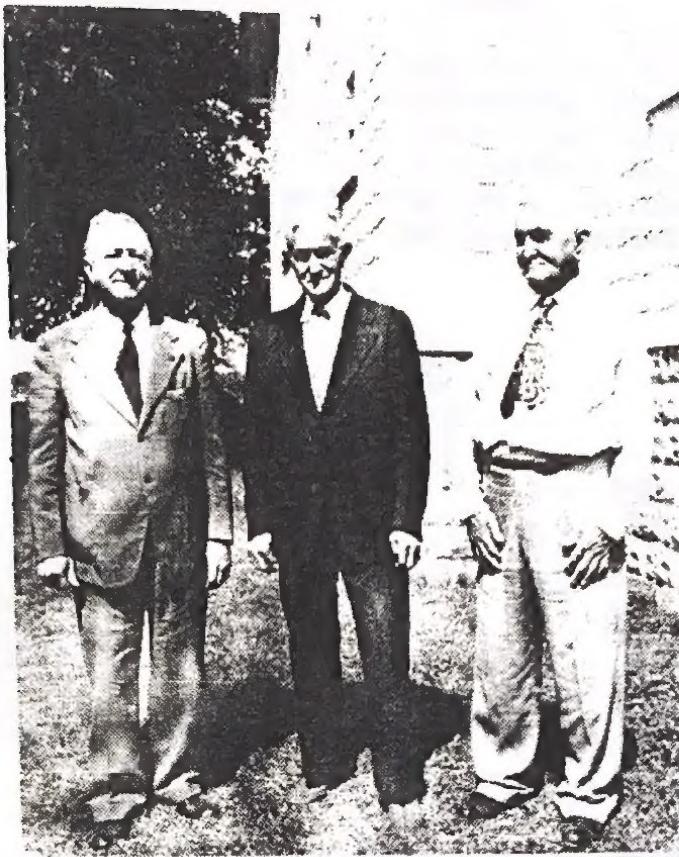
Soon a tramp preacher traveling through decided to hold Baptist services in the Methodist church building. Later while the Baptist services were still being held, a minister from the Methodist conference learned that the Baptists were having services in the Methodist church. While the Methodist minister was trying to get the church back, the Baptists did some investigating and found that the Methodists did not have a deed to the land. So the Baptists proceeded to get the deed, and the property was theirs. Therefore the Methodists had no legal claim to the land, but they claimed the building. A group of Methodist men jacked it up and hauled it to a small plot adjoining the Baptist land. This move then left the Baptists without a building in which to hold their services. The Baptists then built their own church that is presently standing on the same plot of land. In early 1966 they built an addition to the front of the church and redecorated the interior of the sanctuary.

The Methodists later moved their church to another spot. The following is a transfer of land to the Methodist Church taken from records from the Perry County Court House: James Dick to trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church south for their society at Diamond Town, Illinois, lot 4, block 2 in Diamond Town, except coal, January 24, 1873. \$30.00 (Deed record 1, page 184).

The Trustees are individually listed as:

Green Smith
Joseph Bailey
John Short
Joseph Wilkison
Joshua Whitehead

The church that was built on this property stood until it burned in 1937. The church that is presently standing was then built. In 1964 the Methodists built an addition to the east side of this building.



Left to right: Henry, George, and Joe Bailey (brothers) standing in front of the present Methodist Church.

RECREATION

Recreation is essential to a community's welfare. In Diamond City there were four main sources of recreation which were: baseball, square dancing, the band, and the confectionery.

Baseball was played here around the 1900's. Since they couldn't afford a new ball whenever they needed one they had to make it. At first they got a hard spherical object and wrapped twine around it until it was shaped correctly. Then they obtained some cow hide and secured it around the ball for a covering.

Square dancing was even an older means of enjoyment than baseball. Every Saturday night the neighbors gathered at a house to dance. Most of today's dancing is far different from that of early days. For music they sometimes had the band and at other times talented individuals played their musical instruments. A caller was always needed in square dancing. The present Thomas O'Keefe was and probably still is one of the best callers in Perry County. Square dancing is now coming back into style.

The band was another means of recreation and furnished entertainment for many.

The confectionery was a place to meet your friends and to pass the time away.

BANDS

Charles Archibald, a man from Du Quoin, was a music teacher and he organized bands in many communities. Charles organized bands in Du Quoin and even in Sunfield. There's not much known about the first band in our community but we do know about the second one. This band played at many social gatherings and at one time they even played for Gledeth Dirken's funeral, because before she died she insisted on having the band play for her funeral.



Members of the second band from left to right are:
Ted Bailey, Sam Saunders, Arthur Bailey, Thomas
O'Keefe, Doye O'Keefe, Charlie Bailey, Johnny Quill-
man, George Eaton, Leslie Bailey, Tom Nickolson,
Carl Bailey, Leonard Rice. Roy Terry, one of the
band members, is not present.

BARDMUS CEMETERY

A very old place where some of our ancestors were buried is the Bardmus Cemetery. It is located southeast of the late Jack Kimmel home. Some of the Morgans, Jackson, Huges, Baileys, and Saunders were buried in this cemetery.

Some of the earliest dates that are legible are 1840, 1864, and 1866.

PRESENT RESIDENTS OF SUNFIELD

Red Morris	Ronald Shirk
Tucker Bailey	Gene Slater
Jack Bishop	John Jones
Jackie Bishop	Kenneth Jackson
Tommy O'Keefe	Alice Bailey
Sivo Lay	Dora West
Bill Wilson	Henry Jackson
Mervin Hampleman	Louis Weilmunster
John Shepard	Donald Wright
Puge Bishop	Harold Blaise
Moe O'Keefe	Howard Fisher
Robert Eaton	Lester Fisher
Jack Hoge	Pete Jones
Harold Holmes	Gundy and Mike Jones
Herbert Hamilton	Clyde Pippin
John T. Bishop	Luther Bailey
Joe Eaton	Ralph Prusacki
Virgil Wynn	Elmer Russel
Gledith Purnell	Hazel Bishop
Ressho Bailey	Tommy Bishop
Ethel Bailey	Cecil Woodside
Richard Bishop	Twee Bailey
Elizabeth Morris	Tommy Burdel
Lamar Alvis	Earl Nickens
Inez Bishop	Gene Burdel
Jim Peterson	Ezra Feltmeyer
John Vancil	Leland Fisher
Howard Vancil	George Eaton
William Vancil	Lawrence Brock
Parley King	Arthur Bailey
Perry Ward	Jesse Rainwater
Judy Wynn	Mildred Bailey
Worth Woolsey	George Jackson
	Dean Jackson